

BODY:	LICENSING PANEL
DATE:	5th September 2003
SUBJECT:	Hackney Carriage Fare Increase – Consideration of Objections
REPORT OF:	Head of Environmental Health
Ward(s):	All
Purpose:	To consider two objections to the proposed increase in hackney carriage fares.
Contact:	Gary Stevenson, Head of Environmental Health, Telephone 01323 415360 or internally on extension 5360. E-mail address gary.stevenson@eastbourne.gov.uk
Recommendation:	That Licensing Panel retain the fare tariff as published on 15 th August 2003.

1.0	<u>Introduction</u>
1.1	On 1 st August 2003 the Licensing Panel approved an application from the Hackney Carriage trade to increase fares. The proposed new tariff was published, as required, in the Public Notice section of the local paper and on the Council's website.
1.2	In response to the notice two objections to the proposed fare increases have been received from local residents. The details of the objections are set out in the report.
1.3	The Licensing Panel must consider the objections and resolve to either retain or modify the proposed tariff.

2.0	Details of the Objections
2.1	The first objection from a Mrs and Mrs K makes specific reference to the increase in the cost of the first mile of a journey “from £2.90 to £3.20 and the fact that at nearly 10% this is way above the current rate of inflation”.
2.2	The objectors state that “they prefer taxis, buses and walking than running a car and that “they are strongly opposed to a level of increase that is above inflation on the general daytime fare”.
2.3	The second objection from a Ms M raises a general objection to the increase in fares. She states that it will “penalise the elderly and disabled severely” who cannot drive. She feels that “it will be counter productive for the taxi firms. Short and long journeys are already expensive”.
3.0	<u>Previous deliberation by Licensing Panel</u>
3.1	At the meeting on 1 st August the members of the Panel considered the fare application in context of a range of information provided by the trade representatives and officers including the fact that for the 12 months ending March 2003 the Retail Price Index had increased by 2.4% and the Motoring Expenditure Index had increased by 0.8%.
3.2	The Panel supported the increase on the basis that a further application would not be submitted until early 2005, as stated by the applicants. Comment was made on the importance of the applicants providing all the necessary information to assist in the formulation and assessment of applications, including the projected changes in running costs used to formulate fare changes.
4.0	<u>Consultations</u>

4.1	The fare proposal has been the subject of consultation with the Hackney Carriage trade and the new tariff has been published in the local paper and on the Council's website.
5.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
5.1	There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.
6.0	<u>Other Implications</u>
6.1	There are no other implications
7.0	<u>Summary of Options</u>
7.1	In light of the objections received the Licensing Panel can modify or retain the fare tariff agreed by Licensing panel on 1 st August 2003.
8.0	<u>Conclusion</u>
8.1	The objections received in response to the publication of the new fare tariff do not raise any new issues that have not already been considered by the Licensing Panel and therefore it is recommended that the fare tariff as published on 15 th August be introduced.
Lead officer name: Gary Stevenson	
job title: Head of Environmental Health	

Background Papers:

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

Agenda and minutes of the Licensing Panel meeting of 1st August 2003

Two letters of objection

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.

(document reference) gms\reports\licensing panel fares - 05.09.03.doc